



**CSBG Advisory Council Report
July 2023**

As the Community Action Association in New York, NYSCAA uniquely provides specialized services to the NY CSBG Network. NYSCAA staff have specific expertise, access to the latest technologies, a broad understanding of the particular needs of CSBG-funded entities, deep knowledge of the CSBG Performance Management Framework, and positive long-term working relationships with national and regional organizations.

The T/TA NYSCAA provides reflects regional trends and relevancy to Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and broad statewide training needs. Targeted professional development activities are provided to a wide range of CAA staff, including Executive Directors, Fiscal Officers, Human Resources staff, board members, agency management, and program and direct service staff. Topics are determined based on requests from CAAs, training needs surveys, and requests from the NYS Department of State Division of Community Services (DOS/DCS).

Resource materials are developed and routinely distributed or made available on NYSCAA's website, including the annual Poverty Report, the Community Action Resource Guide, The Executive Director/CEO Manual, monthly newsletters, video and web-based training aids, and other relevant materials to support the work of CAAs.

NYSCAA Learn

Over the last year, NYSCAA has expanded NYSCAA Learn. This online learning hub now houses both eLearning interactive courses and other resources designed specifically for Community Action staff and board members. All courses are free and open to board members, staff, and volunteers. There are 23 interactive courses and over 60 recorded webinars from past trainings NYSCAA has hosted. NYSCAA is developing a new course for staff and board members focusing on the CSBG Organizational Standards.

“Academy for Understanding Economic Hardship in NY State”

NYSCAA is creating a framework to integrate courses from NYSCAA Learn into this framework which will contain existing and new courses. NYSCAA is currently developing a new course/presentation called Poverty in NY.

Network-wide trainings

NYSCAA hosted a few trainings since March, including

- The Art of Case Note Writing
- AI for Good: Empowering Nonprofits to Drive Impact and Ethical Innovation
- Enhancing Services for LGBTQ+ Individuals & Families



CSBG Advisory Council Report July 2023

Introduction to ROMA Trainings

NYSCAA continues to hold bi-monthly virtual ROMA training for the network.

NEAR Science/ACEs Training

Utilizing the ACES Interface Master Trainers, NYSCAA provides quarterly training on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) to the staff at CAAs; the most recent one was held in June and presented by Community Action certified ACEs trainers. All 16 certified trainers have renewed their certifications for another six years through ACE Interface.

Annual Professional Development Conference

It will be held September 19th -21st at the Lake Ontario Conference Center in Oswego. All sessions are set. We have invited the Secretary of State to speak, and we are hopeful he can join us.

Emerging Leader Institute (ELI)

The group has 37 CAA staff in the 1.0 group and 9 in the 2.0 group, representing 19 CAAs. The first seminar was held in person in April. The July seminar was spread over three days and just wrapped up. The final seminar will be held in October in person in Syracuse. Topics covered during the seminars include Team Building Strategies, Implementing ROMA, Strategic Planning, Leadership that Gets Results, Assessing Your Leadership Style, CAA Executive Leadership Stories, Having Difficult Conversations, and Effective Communication.

Community Action Plan Template Development

To date, NYSCAA and DOS have developed eight Community Action Plan templates with a group of CAA staff. The templates have been shared with the network as guidance documents when CAAs develop their Community Action Plans. The group has drafted two additional templates that will soon be released to the network. A webinar will be held in August as CAA staff develop their 2024 Community Action Plans.

ROMA Alliance

The group of certified ROMA Trainers and Implementers met in person in May for continuing education. Discussions took place around subjects such as Implementing the full ROMA cycle, improving an agency's capacity to achieve results, putting performance management to work to achieve quality outputs and outcomes, and customizing ROMA training for targeted audiences. The Alliance meets quarterly. NYSCAA and DOS staff co-facilitate the group.

Monitoring Workgroup

Workgroup members have not met recently.

CSBG State Plan Workgroup

Workgroup members have met twice to date. They will meet for a final time next week to review and discuss comments from the public comment period.



CSBG Advisory Council Report July 2023

Regional Meetings

During May and June, NYSCAA held five in-person regional meetings in different geographic areas of the state. The agencies that hosted the meetings include Connecting Communities in Action (western), Greater Opportunities for Broome and Chenango (central-south), LifeWorks Community Action (capital district), the NYC Department of Youth & Community Development (NYC/Long Island/Hudson Valley), and Oswego County Opportunities (central-north). The meetings provided an opportunity for feedback on the CSBG State Plan, and roundtable discussions took place, focusing on evidence-based and best practices.

Social Justice/Racial Equity Committee

The social justice/racial equity group, composed of CAA staff, has not met for a few months and will reconvene in the fall.

List-Servs (Affinity groups)

NYSCAA started an Artificial Intelligence (AI) group. The group will explore the potential uses of AI in CAAs and suggest guardrails for its implementation. NYSCAA also continues to support peer-group meetings and listservs in the areas of finance, human resources, executive assistants, senior-related services, and information technology (IT), including groups of CAP 60 and CAP Systems users. Each group meets on a schedule they determine.

NYSCAA Resources

In May, NYSCAA released the 2023 Poverty Report, an informational source that provides a statewide look at poverty.

NYSCAA publishes a monthly newsletter highlighting news from Community Action Agencies in NY, providing information/tools/resources from CSBG national partners and other relevant and timely information of interest to CAAs.